

Juvenile Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council

Thursday, June 6, 2019

1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

DSCYF Admin Building #2, 1825 Faulkland Road, Room 199

Wilmington, DE 19805

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Carrie Hyla - Chair	Youth Rehabilitation Services
Jennifer Perry - Co-chair	Office of the Investigation Coordinator
Lauren Arnold	Salvation Army
Ryan Brabson	Youth Rehabilitation Service
Shana Cipparone	Office of the Child Advocate
Bernadette Clagg	Nemours/A.I. DuPont
Sophia Cywinski	Division of Family Services
Tracey Frazier	Prevention and Behavioral Health Services
Rashan Henry	Division of Family Services
Abigail Layton	Department of Justice
Elisa Lehman	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Lisa Minutola	Office of Defense Services
Susan Murray	Division of Family Services
Melissa Palokas	Court Appointed Special Advocate
Joshua Rowley	Delaware State Police
Natasha Simms	Center of Professional Development
Alice Stevens	Holistic Elevation
Diana Suchodolski	Division of Health and Social Services
Colleen Woodall	Division of Family Services
Michelle Yingling	Division of Family Services

Skype:

Tina Fountain	Prevention Behavioral Health
Brie Gannon	Criminal Justice Council
Rachael Neff	Family Court

I. Welcome and Introductions

Carrie Hyla opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. There are no minutes from the last meeting to approve.

II. Creation of Subcommittees

- a. **Training** – The Training subcommittee would be tasked with helping update trainings which are already in place at various agencies to include information on

juvenile trafficking. Additionally, making sure the same information is disseminated at training so that there is a unified message in regards to trafficking. There was a mention there is a new worker training currently being developed for Salvation Army. That agency is willing to work with other agencies to ensure a unified message across all trainings.

- b. **Data** – the Data subcommittee would be tasked with tracking and monitoring juvenile specific trafficking/exploitation data in order to identify trends, hot spots, and common denominators.
- c. **Victim Services** – the Victim Services subcommittee would be tasked with identifying services that are already in place for juvenile trafficking/exploitation victims. Additionally, identifying where our state falls short and needs more services. It was discussed that the larger committee is aware of a lack of services for these specific juvenile trafficking/exploitation victims in Delaware. Discussion occurred that there are some victim services counselors who are receiving human trafficking-specific training to bulk up trauma-specific treatment. It was mentioned that at Holistic Elevation the focus is on learning from children who have experienced specific types of trauma in the past. Suzanne Rouleau, LCSW was identified as a provider who works with clients who've been trafficked, and is a potential resource. Additionally, the victim services subcommittee will work to find more resources.
- d. **Public Knowledge/Awareness** – the Public Knowledge/Awareness subcommittee would be tasked with getting the word out about juvenile trafficking/exploitation. Focusing on media (especially social media), marketing, etc. A proposal was discussed using children involved in Holistic Elevations to create PSAs. Another suggestion involved contacting the Youth Advisory Council to help with creating a PSA as well.

The Committee approved the creation of the subcommittees and sign-up sheets for the subcommittees were passed around. If anyone is interested in chairing one of the subcommittees, please reach out to Jen Perry and Carrie Hyla.

III. Update from HTICC

Diana Suchodolski reports that last year's annual report was 55 pages and is going to be bigger this year. She encourages everybody to document what they're working on in order to make note of the committee's accomplishments. This Committee's short/long-term goal sheet is due back to the main HTICC Committee by Aug. 1st.

IV. Review of Previous Group Work

Rachael Neff reported that after the last meeting, she received information about the previous group work. The plan was to follow up with DSCYF on the use of the Juvenile Tracking Assessment Checklist (JTAC). The previous group created a draft bench card and the JTAC and is awaiting approval before it can be finalized.

V. JTAC Tool

There was much discussion in reference to the current JTAC that had been developed by the previous committee to attempt to identify potential exploited children. Due to confidentiality issues around this information, The Office of the Investigation Coordinator (IC) offered to house the completed JTAC forms. IC has no statutory obligation to disseminate information; therefore, confidentiality would not be breached. A proposed solution would be that IC would monitor JTAC and help to facilitate the MDT in appropriate cases. OCA/IC is working on creating a form on the OCA website to streamline sending the JTAC.

There was expressed concern that the JTAC would be filled out and sent in, but no follow up services have been identified to help victims when they've been determined to have been exploited. Another concern raised was that the JTAC would likely be not adopted by law enforcement due to it not being a required, evidence-based tool. There was discussion that perhaps legislation would need to be introduced around having agencies complete a tool. Questions were raised as to whether it would be better to use other tools that are evidence-based. Committee members expressed knowledge of evidence based tools being utilized successfully in other states. The Committee will research these other tools in order to see whether they would be a better fit for Delaware to implement as opposed to the JTAC. The use of the JTAC tool will be revisited.

VI. Review of Short Term and Long Term Goals

The committee reviewed six short-term and four long-term goals. Progress was identified for many goals, one goal has been completed, and the creation of subcommittees will help in completing the remaining goals. The goal sheet and progress report is due to the main HTICC group by August 1st, 2019.

VII. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 1:30 P.M.

VIII. Other business

No other business.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.